

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/689,214

Examiner

Andre J. Allen

Applicant(s)

GOURLAY, ROBERT D.

Art Unit

2855

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to rqst made for examiners amendment on 1-6-05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below.  
  
Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.  
  
Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Gourlay on 1-6-05.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 deleted section (c) and inserted new section (c) - - an oscillator having a frequency responsive to a capacitance between said electrodes, a monostable multivibrator responsive to said oscillator, and an integrator averaging a waveform from said monostable multivibrator to provide a feedback voltage. - -

In claim 1 after section (e), inserted - - f. a secondary feedback voltage means controlling said integrator during reversed pressure conditions. - -

Replaced claim 3 with new claim 3 - -The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said diaphragm is secured in place by a means selected from the group consisting of adhesive bonding, welding and clamping. - -

Replaced claim 4 with new claim 4 - -The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said insulator is an insulating coating disposed upon and bonded to said electrodes. - -

Replaced claim 5 with new claim 5 - -The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said insulator is integral with said diaphragm. - -

Replaced claim 6 with new claim 6 - -The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said diaphragm is comprised of a plastic film with a metal coating on one face. - -

Replaced claim 7 with new claim 7 - -The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the active electronic devices implementing said conversion and amplifying means, said feedback means, and said comparator means are selected from the group consisting of transistors and

Art Unit: 2855

digital microcircuits and linear microcircuits and mixed function microcircuits. - -

Please cancel claims 8-10.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-7 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art does not disclose nor suggest adding a secondary feedback means to control an integrator during reversed pressure conditions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US documents 5134886, 6496348, 5641911, 5531128, 4366716, US 2001/0047689 and US 20020033048 all teach capacitive type

Art Unit: 2855

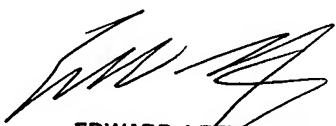
pressure sensor with electrostatic and balancing of force feed back means .

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre J. Allen whose telephone number is 571-272-2174. The examiner can normally be reached on mon-fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 571-272-2180. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

André Allen  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2855



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